THE TECH.

Mechanical Engineering.

THE shops will close on the twentieth, giving opportunity for making up work during the examination weeks.

An article on "Petroleum as Fuel," in a recent Railroad Gazette, will be found of interest to those of the mechanicals who visited the petroleum furnace some weeks since. The conclusion is as follows: "Notwithstanding these advantages, it is evident that at present prices the excess of cost of heat-producing power of petroleum is so great, that all efforts to substitute the liquid for the solid fuel must almost inevitably result in financial disaster."

The Mechanical Engineer, in speaking of Webb's new compound locomotive, says: "But one of these engines has been made as yet, and, in so far as it has been tried, it was found economical of fuel as compared with ordinary locomotives: that is to say, it burned about twenty per cent less coal for the same distance; but whether this is economy or not depends mainly upon how much the repairs cost."

The smallest locomotive in the world is one constructed by Henry Case, of Jamestown, New York, the best part of eight years having been spent in its construction. The engine measures in length eight and one half inches, with tender twelve inches; height three and one half inches; drivers one and three eighths in diameter; cylinder five sixteenths by one half stroke. The engine is complete in all respects, and has whistle, gong, glass water-gauge, lamp in cab and headlight, safety and pop valves in dome. The pumps throw one drop of water per stroke. It weighs one and one half pounds.

Exchange of Mechanical Engineer.

The smallest taps ever cut in a lathe are those made by the American Watch Tool Company, of Waltham, Mass. They are only one one-hundreth of an inch in diameter, and have three hundred and fifty threads to the inch.

A shell race — the oysters. — Ex.

In General.

THE Tech supper takes place next Saturday evening at the Brunswick.

The annuals begin Thursday, May 12.

The first year Laboritories close May 12.

The '82 civils have just commenced on their theses.

The miners and chemists of '84 are busy calibrating burettes.

Already some of the '82s are assured of good situations.

The Institute can now boast a professional tug-of-war team.

Vacation begins on May 29 for the survivors of the annuals.

It is rumored that Prof. Ordway will sail for Europe June 3.

Is n't it about time to have something cool and refreshing on tap in the hall?

This question oft arises to those taking building materials: What has n't Prof. O— done?

A Freshman was heard to inquire at the supply-room for a "masher," — he wanted a mortar.

The Junior miners and chemists recently spent a very pleasant evening at the residence of Prof. Richards, Jamaica Plain.

Tufts College seems to be greatly disappointed over the non-appearance of our base-ball team on the 22d.

Prof. Richards run a level in the Institute grounds the other morning while the miners smoked their cigarettes.

The officers of the battalion had a group photograph taken a short time since. The proofs are quite good.

We've just learned that the Institute has been visited by rather an important personage. It is no other than that ever-welcome, cunning, little youngster — Cupid. Whom has he hit?